

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence encoding a dystrophin minigene [comprising] consisting essentially of:

- (a) N-terminal domain;
- (b) four to six rod repeats;
- (c) an H1 domain of a dystrophin gene and an H4 domain of the dystrophin gene; and
- (d) a cysteine-rich domain,

A<sup>1</sup>  
wherein the N-terminal domain is selected from a group consisting of a N-terminal domain of the dystrophin gene, a modified N-terminal domain of the dystrophin gene, and a N-terminal domain of a utrophin gene; the rod repeats are selected from a group consisting of rod repeats in the dystrophin gene, rod repeats in the utrophin gene, and rod repeats in a spectrin gene; the cysteine-rich domain is the cysteine-rich domain of the dystrophin gene or the utrophin gene, and

wherein the dystrophin minigene is capable of ameliorating dystrophic pathology when expressed in a dystrophic muscle.

2. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 1, further comprising [a] the last three amino acids of a C-terminal domain of the dystrophin gene.

8. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 3, consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, or a [substantially] complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:2.

A<sup>2</sup>  
9. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 3, consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, or a [substantially] complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:6.

10. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 3, consisting of SEQ ID NO:9, or a [substantially] complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:9.

A<sup>2</sup>  
11. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 3, consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, or a [substantially] complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:10.

12. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 3, consisting of SEQ ID NO:12, or a [substantially] complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:12.

13. (Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 3, consisting of SEQ ID NO:14, or a [substantially] complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:14.

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24. (Amended) A recombinant adeno-associated virus vector, comprising [a] the nucleotide sequence of claim 9, operably linked to an expression control element.

25. (Amended) A recombinant adeno-associated virus vector, comprising [a] the nucleotide sequence of claim 10, operably linked to an expression control element.

A<sup>3</sup>  
26. (Amended) A recombinant adeno-associated virus vector, comprising [a] the nucleotide sequence of claim 11, operably linked to an expression control element.

27. (Amended) A recombinant adeno-associated virus vector, comprising [a] the nucleotide sequence of claim 12, operably linked to an expression control element.

28. (Amended) A recombinant adeno-associated virus vector, comprising [a] the nucleotide sequence of claim 13, operably linked to an expression control element.

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